

March 23, 1976

I have passed around to you almost the first ten pages of the program statement showing you what it does. Again, this is \$211,500 and it finances the Visitor Center at Ash Hollow Park. Senator Whitney, my predecessor, asked this legislature and they granted \$20,000 two years ago for a program statement and for the studying of this situation. It is now done, it is here, and as I said I have passed it around to you. I have here on my desk even copies of the blue prints for this facility. Ash Hollow State Park is located on Highway 26, and if you read any of this program statement you will see that those people who did it, the professionals who did it, expect with the completion of this visitors center and the signs to stop people, that there will probably be more visitors to Ash Hollow State Park than there are to Scottsbluff Monument or to Ft. Robinson. As I said, this is located right on Highway 26. The people in the area have been most helpful to the Games and Park Department as far as the camper park there. As you know I sent a little picture around with you showing the local people even donated and put in a well there at the camper park. Just to see that it was done, because I don't believe that the Game and Parks Department has had that much interest in this area. It is a shame that 15 years ago that this Legislature appropriated money and started a ten year plan that is not complete yet for this Ash Hollow Park. They condemned over a thousand acres of land, they put in oil roads, and they have got the superintendents facility. They have got everything there except to tell people what it is about. The people don't stop because there are not any signs there. People after they do stop are disappointed because there is nothing to see. Let me tell you there is plenty there. Ash Hollow State Park and Ash Hollow was mentioned, and some of you read, Mitchner's Centennial, he points out that Ash Hollow and the area there, some of the most historic in the United States as far as tracing Indians back in this United States. It also traces the Oregon Trail through the area. The, what ended up as the Battle of the Big Horn really started in Ash Hollow area 35 years preceeding the..or 45 years preceeding the Battle of the Big Horn which General Custer wore the first arrow shirt.

PRESIDENT: Could we have a little more attention please, that wasn't too bad.

SENATOR MILLS: That still calls for \$211,500. I would ask you to support this as I have passed things around to you. I am not trying to hoodwink you. I am not trying to circumvent the area, the appropriations committee. I believe that it is time that this Legislatue the 84th, the Second Session of the 84th does and finishes what the 69th First Session, started to do. I would ask you to adopt this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Since I didn't get my roof and it fell in and since last year we had the famous "Mill's Mill Pond Bill" and we passed that but the Governor vetoed it, I think that it is time we get a little bit of money out there. I did want to speak